

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 TAR-02 DRC-01

/110 W

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R 211638Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5659

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, TECH, FR

SUBJ: GE-SNECMA LICENSE AND EC TARIFFS ON AIRCRAFT COMPONENTS

REF: STATE 241603

PARIS 31723

1. EMBOFF DISCUSSED SUBJECT FURTHER WIT COLLIN AND DE PANNEFIEU OF DREE. OFFICIALS CONFIRMED THAT FOR TARIFF ITEMS 85.15 AND 90.28, THE ANNEX II FOOTNOTE MAKES THE OPERATIONAL DATE FOR CERTIFICATION OF AIRCRAFT EXCEEDING 15 TONS JANUARY 1, 1973 RATHER HAN JANUARY 1, 1974.

2. RE SPECIFIC CASE OF LOCKHEED TRISTAR OFFICIALS SAID AIRCRAFT WAS NOT CERTIFIED BEFORE 1973 AND THEREFORE RADIO EQUIPMENT (85.15) AND MEASURING EQUIPMENT (90.28) INTENDED FOR THIS AIRCRAFT WOULD NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR DUTY SUSPENSION. THEY ALSO SAID THAT OTHER CATEGORIES HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ANNEX AND ONLY ITEMS 85.15 AND 90.28 WERE AFFECTED. DE PANNEFIEU COMMENTED THAT, ALTHOUGH FRANCE SUPPORTED THE DECISION, IT WAS BRITISH WHO WERE MOST INSISTENT ON THIS ARRANGEMENT AND THEY HAD ALREADY INSTALLED

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BRITISH EQUIPMENT ON TRISTARS.

3. IN DISCUSSING THIS DECISION IN RELATION TO FRENCH COMMITMET CONTAINED IN SEPTEMBER 4 LETTER, FRENCH OFFICIALS WERE UNABLE TO COMPREHEND WHY WE MADE CONNECTION BETWEEN 1974 SUSPENSION LIST AND UNDERSTANDING IN LETTER REGARDING AVIATION EQUIPMENT. FRANCE THEN PULLED OUT GOF CIRCULAR ANNOUNCING SUSPENSION OF DUTIES FOR LARGE AIRCRAFT FOR 1974. UPSHOT OF DISCUSSION WAS THAT FRENCH DO NOT CONSIDER TARIFF ITEMS 85.15 AND 90.28 AS "MATERIALS AERONAUTIQUES." THEY POINTED OUT THAT THESE CLASSIFICATIONS COVER RADIO AND MEASURING INSTRUMENTS OF VARIOUS KINDS AND USAGES. THESE ITEMS WOULD NOT BE DEFINED AS "MATERIELS AERONAUTIQUES" BUT AS "PIECES DETACHEES" (PARTS). FRENCH CLAIMED AT BOTH MEETINGS TO BE SURPRISED AT OUR INTERPRETATION AND SAID THEY WOULD BRING THE MATTER TO THE ATTENTION OF THEIR SUPERIORS.

4. THE OFFICIALS ALSO CONFIRMED THAT MODIFYING LANGUAGE IN ANNEX II FROM VERSION "A" TO "TYPES" COULD ALSO CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THESE TARIFF ITEMS.

5. EMBASSY OFFICER SAID THAT DIFFERING VERSIONS OF SEPTEMBER 4 LETTER WERE UNFORTUNATE AND THAT WE MAY WISH TO PURSUE FURTHER. FR USEC BRUSSELS; WOULD APPRECIATE COPY OF ANNEX II WITH FOOTNOTE AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT MATERIAL.
STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS32645
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731210/aaaaahie.tel
Line Count: 86
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 241603
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06-Sep-2001 by freemaal>; APPROVED <01-Nov-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GE-SNECMA LICENSE AND EC TARIFFS ON AIRCRAFT COMPONENTS
TAGS: ETRN, TECH, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005